

MAR 25 1985

Docket Nos. 50-272
50-311
EA 85-22

Public Service Electric and Gas Company
ATTN: Mr. C. McNeil
Vice President - Nuclear
P. O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 07101

Dear Mr. McNeil:

As a result of inspections of the emergency preparedness program at the Salem Generating Station, violations of NRC requirements were identified. The first NRC inspection was conducted on October 22-25, 1984 and consisted of observation of the Salem Generating Station annual emergency exercise. NRC observers identified 21 deficiencies in various aspects of the program. Collectively, these deficiencies represented a significant programmatic weakness in the emergency preparedness program. On October 31, 1984, Mr. Uderitz and members of your staff met with NRC management in the Region I office to discuss the deficiencies.

The number of deficiencies identified during the October inspection was unusually high. Further, several of the deficiencies were significant. As a result, on November 5-9, 1984, a special NRC team inspection was conducted to determine the underlying causes of the major deficiencies. During the November inspection, additional violations of NRC requirements were identified. These violations involved deficiencies in the training of PSE&G emergency personnel and failure by PSE&G management to correct deficiencies in the emergency preparedness program which were previously identified during quality assurance audits and emergency drills.

The NRC is particularly concerned about the lack of aggressive management actions to correct licensee-identified deficiencies. This problem, and the training deficiencies, contributed to PSE&G failing to demonstrate during its annual exercise that it could promptly notify offsite authorities.

On January 24, 1985, an enforcement conference was conducted with Mr. Uderitz and members of your staff to discuss the violations, their causes, and the corrective actions. Your staff acknowledged that deficiencies had existed in the implementation and maintenance of the emergency preparedness program and presented a program of both short- and long-term corrective actions for improvement. The NRC recognizes that these actions, if aggressively implemented,

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should preclude recurrence of these violations. Nonetheless, the failure to promptly correct licensee-identified deficiencies in the first instance represents a lack of management commitment to the emergency preparedness program.

To emphasize the importance of management control of the emergency preparedness program, I have been authorized, after consultation with the Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement, to issue the enclosed Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalties in the amount of \$50,000 for the violations described in the enclosed Notice. In accordance with the General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions, 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C, as revised, 49 FR 8583 (March 8, 1984), the violations have been categorized in the aggregate as a Severity Level III problem. The base civil penalty for a Severity Level III problem is \$50,000.

You are required to respond to the enclosed Notice and you should follow the instructions specified therein in preparing your response. We will examine closely your corrective actions and we emphasize that any similar violations in the future may result in additional enforcement action.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Thomas E. Murley
Thomas E. Murley
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Notice of Violation and
Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalties

Public Service Electric and Gas
Company

cc w/encl:

R. L. Mittl, General Manager - Nuclear Assurance and Regulation
J. M. Zupko, Jr., General Manager - Salem Operations
E. A. Liden, Manager - Nuclear Licensing and Regulation
C. P. Johnson, Manager - Quality Assurance Nuclear Operations
P. M. Krishna, Manager - Nuclear Review Board
M. J. Wetterhahn, Esquire
R. Fryling, Jr., Esquire
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
State of New Jersey

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Company

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

Public Utility Commission

ACRS

SECY

CA

T. Murley, RI

J. M. Taylor, IE

R. Vollmer, IE

J. Collins, IE

J. Axelrad, IE

P. Robinson, IE

J. Partlow, IE

E. Jordan, IE

B. Grimes, IE

V. Stello, DED/ROGR

F. Ingram, PA

J. Lieberman, ELD

Enforcement Coordinators

RI, RII, RIII, RIV, RV

H. Denton, NRR

R. Stark, NRR

B. Hayes, OI

J. Crooks, AEOD

S. Connely, OIA

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